# Daily Report

# Latin America

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## Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-068 12 April 1993

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## Rio Group Foreign Ministers End Meeting; Silva Cimma Cited

*PY0804131893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2016 GMT 6 Apr 93*

[Text] Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 6 Apr (EFE)—The Rio Group foreign ministers today ended a two-day meeting held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, during which they renewed their intention to comprise a trade bloc of democratic and developed nations.

Through their foreign ministers, almost all Latin American countries renewed in Santa Cruz their relentless commitment to democracy, the social and economic development of their peoples, freedom in conducting trade worldwide, and their respect for human rights.

This was explained by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, who is the Rio Group "pro tempore" secretary.

To this extent, the foreign ministers of the Rio Group permanent mechanism for political agreements and consultation will meet in April with their EC counterparts in Copenhagen.

After the meeting in Denmark, Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella, and Silva Cimma will travel to Japan, seeking to expand trade relations with that country and other Asian countries.

Following these meetings, the chiefs of state of the countries comprising the permanent agreements and consultation mechanisms will meet in October in Santiago, Chile, seeking to advance further in integrating all the countries of the American continent.

During the meeting held in Santa Cruz, 851 km east of La Paz, the Rio Group foreign ministers also discussed, and in some cases solved, domestic problems, such as inviting Panama and Peru to rejoin the Rio Group, as well as the situation in Haiti and Cuba.

The Rio Group believes that "the reasons that justified expelling Panama from the group in 1988 no longer exist." The group decided, however, that Panama can only be reinstated as a member of the Central American bloc and not as a full member.

Peru was invited to again join the Rio Group because Venezuela suspended its veto against Peruvian participation in the group. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa said, however, that his government "will not resume diplomatic relations with Peru until the Lima government requests that relations be resumed."

Regarding Haiti, Silva Cimma merely stated that the Rio Group decided to support former Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo's initiative calling for the reestablishment of democracy in this Caribbean country. This initiative is in response to the request from the United Nations and the OAS.

Silva Cimma said that the Rio Group regrets the absence of signs of democratization in Cuba. He added that the group nonetheless criticized initiatives, such as the U.S. "Torricelli Law," which seeks to isolate Cuba from international trade.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean and Silva Cimma took the opportunity to shake hands and sign an "economic complementation" agreement between the two countries which, however, enjoy no diplomatic relations.

Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Salin de Rubio has reported that her country has agreed to create with Brazil a mixed border committee to review the location of the border markers that divide the two countries, and to create a similar committee with Panama.

During the Santa Cruz meeting Colombia and Venezuela did not discuss their dispute over the Venezuela Gulf, however.

Chile, which has one of the strongest economies in Latin America, explained its bilateral trade agreements strategy. This strategy is implemented outside the integration processes started in Latin America—such as the Common Market of the South and the Andean Pact—and which are not yet concluded.

According to Silva Cimma, at the end of the meeting all Rio Group countries agreed to express their satisfaction with implementation of the free trade agreement signed by Mexico, Canada, and the United States and over the possibility that other Latin American countries will benefit from this project.

Silva Cimma said that for the first time, corruption had been discussed in this sort of meeting and that the group agreed to hold a seminar in Ecuador to draft plans for the moralization of the democratic administrations.

The Rio Group is comprised of: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras (on behalf of the Central American countries), Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean countries), Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

## Opposition to Torricelli Law Expressed

*PY0704134893 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Apr 93*

[Report by Marcelo Huancadorado in Santa Cruz]

[Text] The twelve Rio Group foreign ministers ended their meeting yesterday in Santa Cruz by expressing their opposition to the Torricelli Law, which was approved by the United States to intensify the economic blockade

against Cuba. The Rio Group repudiated the law, considering it interventionist and contrary to the self determination of the people. They expressed the need, however, for the establishment of democracy in Cuba.

The foreign ministers also agreed that they will intensify their campaign against drugs. Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru, the three most affected countries, will be helped with both moral support and concrete measures, as it was explained yesterday during a final news conference by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, the interim secretary of the Rio Group.

The Rio Group foreign ministers renewed their total commitment to democracy, respect for human rights, the social and economic development of the people, and commercial freedom in the world. The meeting concluded at about 1400 yesterday in Santa Cruz with a collective news conference.

**Correction to Foreign Ministers Issue Banana Declaration**
*WA0904080093*

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Foreign Ministers Issue Banana Declaration," published in the 7 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 1: Column two, paragraph one, last sentence, make read: ...and Ecuador agree: [new graf]

1. To keep in mind the decision adopted by the presidents of the banana producing countries on 11 February 1993 in Guayaquil; namely, to reject the new rules imposed by the EC on banana imports to the Community market because they violate the GATT.... (rewording for clarity) Column two, paragraph four, only sentence, make read: ...a Compensation Fund, because the amount of that fund would in no way compensate for the damage that the new banana regulations would cause. [end graf] (inserting dropped passage)

## Cuba

### Castro Receives Letters of Congratulations From Abroad

*FL1004182193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Apr 93*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro continues to receive letters of congratulations on the occasion of his reelection as president of the Council of State.

Glavkos Kliridhis, president of the Republic of Cyprus, sent a message to Fidel wishing him success in performing his responsibilities and expressing his conviction that the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will continue to develop and strengthen.

Polish President Lech Walesa sent his warmest congratulations to our commander in chief. Hanna Suchocka, president of the Polish Council of Ministers, expressed herself in a similar fashion.

The president of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and secretary general of the Polisario Front, Mohamed Abdelaziz stated in his letter that the ties that unite his country to Cuba give honor to his people. Other messages were sent to Fidel by Nayed Hawuamed, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Doctor Said Davide, director General of the Jordanian Communist Party.

### Foreign Ministry Denies MIAMI HERALD Drug Report

*PA0904234793 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2202 GMT 9 Apr 93*

[Text] Havana, 9 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban Foreign Ministry denied on 9 April a report issued in Miami, Florida, claiming that Cuban officials are trying to turn the island into a center for drug trafficking.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told NOTIMEX: "This is another maneuver by the counterrevolution to spread slander."

According to a report published by THE MIAMI HERALD on 8 February, 15 Cuban officials were reportedly involved in shipments of 7.5 tons of drugs to the United States between 1980 and 1990.

The Cuban Government upholds strict measures against this type of international activity and any cases registered in 1989 were severely punished.

Given its location in the Caribbean Ocean, its proximity to the United States, its three air corridors, and the hundreds of caves surrounding the island, Cuba is located in the very center of the drug route between South America and the U.S. Atlantic coast.

Fidel Castro's government has signed agreements to wage a war against drugs with several countries, including Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico.

Internal drug consumption on the island is almost nil, but its geographic location makes it important to solving this problem.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that this allegation has been used several times to "denigrate" Cuban leaders, but no one has been able to present evidence.

THE MIAMI HERALD said the charges being prepared by U.S. federal prosecutors are based on statements provided by former Colombian drug trafficker Carlos Lehder at the trial against Manuel Antonio Noriega, former chief of Panamanian Defense Forces.

A U.S. Department of State report published earlier this month recognized Cuba's cooperation in the control of drug trafficking in 1992.

"The Cuban Government continues to maintain a high profile in its policy against drugs, part of which has been backed with actions," it was stated by the U.S. agency's report.

### Gen. Raul Castro Presides Over Military Council Meeting

*FL1004033493 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Visio Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Apr 93*

[Text] The military council, evolved by the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [Minfar] met on 8 April and was presided over by Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Council of State. Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque; Carlos Lage Davila; first ministry substitutes: Division Gen. Ulises Rosales del Toro, chief of the General Staff and Julio Casas Regueiro; and Leopoldo Cintra Frias, chief of the Student Army [title as heard]—all members of the Politburo—as well as Division Generals Ramon Espinosa Martin, Joaquin Quinta Solaz, and Rigoberto Garcia Fernandez, chiefs of the Western, Central, and Youth Labor Armies respectively, participated in examining the agenda.

The reports centered on the assessment of principle tasks carried out by the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] in 1992 and the progress of Armed Forces directives fulfilled in 1993, which were defined by the minister in the last military council in 1992. The state's assessment of preparation for the country's defense and fortification of combat readiness was the object of a meticulous and multisided test. In this sense, the training of the personnel, the conditioning of the theater of military operations, the state of armament and technology—its vitality and conservation—and logistic assurance were topics extensively discussed during the work sessions of the council.

Division Gen. Ulises Rosales made special comments on the improvements made to the development of the idea of the war of all the people and its future projection. Production increases already obtained, goals for growth in 1993 of the FAR food program, to be reached in the

shortest period of time possible, and the self-sufficiency of the troops, were carefully analyzed, as the essential magnitude of this task requires given the conditions of the current special period.

The report of the work developed for strengthening military discipline and the positive advancements obtained were also carefully considered. Keeping in mind the goals reached in the diverse aspects analyzed in the period of 1991 and 1992, the Western Army was the command with the best results in the tough, fraternal emulation, which is carried out between the armies and units of the FAR. At the same time, the accomplishments of the Central and Eastern Armies were pointed out, which shows a satisfactory evaluation for the combined revolutionary forces, which unite all the people, and under the direction of the commander in chief make indisputable this bastion of national independence and socialism in the Western Hemisphere.

Raul presented trophies and accrediting diplomas of their successes to the most outstanding command and different kinds of units for the results obtained in the two-year period of 1991 and 1992. The trophy presented to the Division Gen. Ramon Espinosa Martin, chief of the Eastern Army, the machine gun used by Camilo in the Battle of Yaguajay, will rotate. The Central Army won it for their work in 1992. At the end of the two-year period of 1993-94, which is underway, it will belong to the command who achieves the greatest achievements.

The FAR minister congratulated the most outstanding soldiers and said that the winner is the defense of the country, the revolution, and socialism.

## Robaina on Ibero-American Summit, U.S. Blockade, 'Secret' Report

*PA1004021893 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Apr 93*

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina stated in Havana his country's determination to work for regional integration during the third Ibero-American Summit, scheduled for July in Brazil. During a meeting with the local media, Robaina said he endorses examining specific topics during the summit, including cooperation in the health and education sectors, to achieve a real integration process.

Robaina restated that the first priority in Cuba's foreign policy is the struggle against the blockade the United States has maintained against the island for over 30 years.

The foreign minister rejected an alleged secret report attributed to Cuban authorities and reported in the United States. The report predicts a collapse of the island's economy in a matter of months. He said its terms are totally false.

## Robaina Holds Working Meeting With Journalists

*FL1004031993*

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 9 April on its "Exculsive" program carries an impromptu seven-minute report by correspondent Roberto Cavado on a working meeting between new Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and the Cuban press that Cavado says "ended just a few minutes ago" at the International Press Center. Cavado says that the working meeting was between Robaina and "the Cuban press accredited, of course, to discuss international and foreign topics in the nation's different press organizations."

Cavado says that Radio Rebelde Network is going to carry "a far more precise, more comprehensive report" on this matter as of early tomorrow but that he wanted to give the "Exclusive" program an initial idea of what Robaina discussed with the Cuban press, for example "the marked interest Ministry of Foreign Relations [Minrex] has in outlining a new relationship with the press, both the [?foreign] press accredited in Havana and the domestic press."

Cavado notes that this new style has already begun, with this very work meeting: Robaina invited all the vice foreign ministers who were present in the capital at this time, as well as a number of department heads of different ministry offices, to attend the meeting and talk to the domestic press. Cavado says that this is "a work style that is going to expand" and that "the domestic press, the different journalists, are even going to attend work meetings at the very ministry." He says that ministry officials are going to talk to journalists and make suggestions to them.

Cavado reports that Robaina said the journalists can help Minrex a great deal. Regarding the Minrex's future work, Cavado reports that Robaina said the specialists are going to get out of their offices and "go to student centers and work centers to support and even facilitate discussion of the topics everyone is discussing, at the present time." There are international topics such as the Inter-American Summit to be held in Bahia and "the Cuban Government's possibilities of helping this integration along" through the spheres of medicine, health care, education, and other sectors.

Cavada says that Robaina said the Minrex specialists plan to discuss such things with anyone and everyone interested in discussing them, and anywhere, anytime. Cavada says that Robaina said there is no reason why such things could not be discussed while picking tomatoes at the Minrex's camp, Sonrisa de la Victoria, for example.

Cavada says that Robaina explained that "Minrex does not do work for abroad alone; that is, from Cuba out. It also does work from Cuba in." Cavada reiterates that the domestic press plays a fundamental role in this—that the

Cuban press not only plays a role that affects Cuba domestically but that its role also affects Cuba abroad.

Cavada also reports that Robaina said that "arguments with which to parry existing ideas and opinions about and campaigns against Cuba" and defend the Revolution must be found that do not go back 30 years. He reports that Robaina said that more recent arguments in defense of the Revolution must be found.

Cavada reports that Robaina also told the journalists: "We also want you to tell us what we can do, and not only [listen to] what we are going to tell you." Cavada says that Robaina wants to forge a work link between the Minrex and the journalists and population in general.

Cavada says that Robaina said the Minrex's doors are open to all journalists; that Robaina said what he would most like is for a journalist to be able to get some bit of information he may need to do a piece of work from other journalists in the very halls of the Minrex.

Cavada adds that tomorrow [10 April], the "Doing Radio" program will carry a report on this with Robaina's statements and participation by other journalists. He ends by saying that tomorrow's report will be far more comprehensive and detailed.

### Cited on 'National Reality'

*FL1004143793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1125 GMT 10 Apr 93*

[Report on Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina's working meeting with domestic journalists, by Marta Resi and Roberto Cavada, in Havana, on the "Doing Radio" Program—live]

[Excerpts] [Cavada] Yesterday, the foreign minister held a news conference that lasted almost two hours. This was the first working meeting he held with journalists from all the national organizations that handle international issues and foreign relations. There was no specific agenda; many subjects were covered.

[Resi] [passage omitted] Robaina also discussed the national reality and how the Ministry of Foreign Relations [Minrex] is going to work within Cuba, as well as abroad.

[Cavada] Following the same policy as in his meeting with the international press, Robaina had with him several vice ministers and department chiefs because he believes that the work of the ministry should not be focused on the minister, but that journalists should follow up the news through the many Minrex specialists who have experience in many subjects and areas. [passage omitted]

[Begin Robaina recording] The Minrex policy, its guidelines to fulfill the mission assigned to it by Cuba and the government, can only be efficiently met if we become a team with you [journalists], to foster the flow of communication, to allow the ministry doors to be opened to discuss whatever issue of importance you want to discuss. We want to stress, however, that we do not want this to become a systematic meeting of the minister with the press. We should trust others; we should be used to having many others come and speak with the press.

All important news and events cannot be reserved for explanation by the minister alone. The goal of this meeting is, first, to announce the openness of the ministry, the ideas we believe... [pauses] even to speak of some things which we believe in in times such as these are already... [pauses] Our initial policy will develop from what is said here. It will allow others to speak on behalf of the ministry about their respective ideas, agendas, formulas, and thoughts on many things we believe we have to prioritize at this time. You are not going to see the ministry or its officials telling you what the news is or how to handle it. You are the professionals here, the news experts. Those of us working on foreign affairs have to provide you with the priorities, the main issues to be discussed and analyzed in these times. [end recording] [passage omitted]

### Robaina Meets With Colombian Legislation Delegation

*FL1004011393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Apr 93*

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Robaina has met with the delegation headed by Tito Edmundo Rueda, president of the Colombian Senate. He highlighted the rapprochement attained between the two countries. Robaina congratulated the Colombian legislators for the courage they have shown by visiting our country during the difficult times the world is experiencing and explained that Cubans value highly those who come to Cuba to learn about our social system.

For his part, Rueda said Cuba is better known in the world for its social revolution but that he thinks that it should henceforth also be well-known for the advances it has made in the field of science, especially in the pharmaceuticals and biotechnology sectors, which are as important as those it has made in education and public health.

### Bilateral Relations Discussed

*PA1004020393 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Apr 93*

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina underscored in Havana the quick evolution of relations between Cuba and Colombia since the two nations decided to restore relations at the consular level approximately one year ago. During a meeting in this capital with Colombian Senate President Tito Edmundo Rueda and other Colombian officials, Robaina emphasized how important it is for this visit to be followed by business and tourist visits, with the intention of strengthening bilateral trade relations. The Cuban foreign minister praised the Colombian delegation members because they traveled to Havana at a time when the U.S. campaign

against the island is more ferocious and when many dare predict the end of the revolution.

### Culture Minister Describes PRC Visit as 'Very Positive'

*FL0904230993 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 9 Apr 93*

[Text] In Beijing, Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart has called the West's campaigns regarding human rights the great farce of the century. Hart says it is the Third World that should raise such banners, because the United States and other powers are waging such maneuvers while the civil rights situation in their own territories reveals itself to be a tragedy.

Hart ends a week-long visit to the PRC tomorrow. He described his visit as very positive. During his visit to China, Hart met with several different prominent Chinese figures.

### Arrives in DPRK 10 April

*FL1004170593 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1602 GMT 10 Apr 93*

[Excerpt] Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart arrived on 10 April in the DPRK where he was greeted by DPRK Vice Premier Chang Chol. The Cuban minister, who will participate in the festivities in honor of Kim Il-song's 81st birthday, was also greeted by Cuban Ambassador Juan Jose Vega at the Pyongyang airport. [passage omitted]

### Latin American, Caribbean Solidarity Meeting Approves Accords

*FL1004154793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Apr 93*

[Text] Participants in the second Latin American and Caribbean Meeting of Solidarity and Friendship With Cuba, which was held for six days at the Julio Antonio Mella International Camp in Caimito, Havana Province, approved 26 important accords aimed at promoting concrete joint continental action to provide moral and material support to the Cuban people and fight the U.S. embargo. Among the most significant accords are: to declare the Continental Year of Solidarity With Cuba from now to next April; to convene the First Global Assembly of Solidarity With Cuba for 1994; to maintain 26 July as Continental Day of Solidarity With Cuba and to observe it simultaneously throughout the continent with declarations, ceremonies, and marches demanding fulfillment of the UN resolution against the embargo. Another of the accords refers to organizing a continental week of homage to Ernesto Che Guevara from 7 to 14 June in connection with the 65th anniversary of his birth. Another accord refers to an oil campaign at the continental level.

Likewise, a program of activities was approved to fulfill these accords. In the final declaration, the delegates call upon the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean to defend with their solidarity the work of the Cuban Revolution and to keep hope alive. The participants stated that they will mobilize to demand the immediate end of the U.S. embargo, which has been intensified by the Torricelli Law and which violates the sovereignty of every country in the world. They expressed their unconditional support to the Cuban people's right to fully exercise their self-determination and independence.

In addition, they reaffirmed to the world that Cuba fully respects the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which is the core of its social project and a real practice of true democracy. The declaration adds: Cuba cannot wait. We have an historic commitment to defend the fatherland of Marti and Fidel with our actions, under the conviction that, as Marti said: Whoever rises with Cuba today, rises for all time.

The 150 participants from 22 countries stated that while the first meeting held last year established the priorities of the movement of solidarity with Cuba, the second meeting established the strategies of this movement.

### Latin American Economic Integration Process Viewed

*PA1004043493 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Apr 93*

["Our America" commentary by Amalia Sanmartin]

[Text] Economic integration has become a key issue for Latin American nations in recent years. The essential goal of this unity, which already has very representative groups throughout the zone, is to join efforts and face the expansion of powerful economic blocs like the one in Europe, and contribute toward the development of countries in the area.

The creation of a free transit zone for assets, merchandise, and persons is the goal sought by the nations that participate in Latin American integration processes. There may still be some obstacles, but this has not diminished the governments' determination to turn Latin America into a united nation, not only economically but also politically and culturally.

The Caribbean zone has not remained on the sidelines in this integration process. Although comprised of countries with a smaller territorial area and with less resources than their South American brothers, it is also trying to jointly solve the multiple problems that preclude its development.

Cuba is a nation that cannot be left out of the integration process because it is part of this community of nations. Aside from being in the same geographic zone, it shares the same problems and hopes to solve them. Cuba offers a great variety of facilities for business ventures in the Caribbean, establishing guidelines for its full participation in the regional and world market. It has a fully-developed material and human infrastructure and has

achieved great progress in areas such as medicine, biotechnology, pharmacology, and civil engineering. Likewise, it has important hydrocarbon potential and facilities to establish partnerships with other Caribbean nations.

The Caribbean island's industries, services, natural resources, and potential for trade become elements allowing interaction at the regional level. These prospects favor the integration process and they will also help Cuba overcome the difficult situation afflicting its economy. Cuba's economy has been negatively affected both by the former Soviet Union's collapse and by problems afflicting Eastern European countries, which absorbed 85 percent of the Cuban foreign trade. This last viewpoint must not be forgotten because an integration process does not simply imply doing business. It also involves establishing the groundwork for cooperation and mutual aid, so nations may forge ahead in a ferociously competitive world where less developed countries's interests always fare the worst.

### Havana Province Administrative Council Formed

*FL1004013793 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 9 Apr 93*

[Text] Today, 9 April, a heroic date, the administrative council for Havana Province was formed. The 19 members of the council are ready to begin work. The group consists of the province's principal economic and social authorities. The council's president and vice president coincide with the leadership of the provincial assembly. The distance between the problem and he who has the obligation to solve it is thereby shortened. In addition, the committee in charge of developing the overall energy program and the committee for analyzing the functioning of the people's councils were also formed. Ricardo Alarcon and Jaime Crombet, of the National Assembly, then conversed with the province's 42 deputies and other leaders about the role and actions of the deputies at the base-level, vis-a-vis the current problems the country is experiencing.

With its 656,000 inhabitants, Havana has in the administrative council and the provincial assembly administrative bodies near to carry out its projects. Don't forget that this is a province with serious economic responsibilities in Cuba.

The provincial assembly today also studied the details of the recovery: 6,070 housing units were partially affected in the province, and 216 destroyed. Up to the present, over half have been repaired. The recovery of the rest is planned, taking into account the high demand for tiles and drain pipes. It was reported that the Artemisa asbestos-cement factory is working three shifts per day at full capacity. In agriculture, over 1 million plantain plants were lost; 90,000 quintals have been recovered for the population. The assembly today confirmed that Havana is not renouncing the 1993 tuber and vegetable production plan.

### Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities 2 to 12 Apr

*FL1204123993*

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on the activities of members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 2 April and 12 April:

Politburo member Esteban Lazo Hernandez, Communications Minister Manuel Castillo Rebasa and Brigadier General Silvano Colas attended the opening of the Fourth Congress of the Federation of Cuban Amateur Radio Operators. Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera sent a message wishing them great success with their goals. [Radio Rebelde 1800 GMT 2 April]

In Havana City Abel Prieto, president of the National Cuban Writers and Artists Union, signed an agreement with the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces for a work program to strengthen ties in artistic and cultural fields and to defend the country. The agreement emphasizes efforts by the FAR to develop cultural and artistic programs. [Radio Reloj 2030 GMT 2 April]

Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina participated in a Union of Young Communists (UJC) activity at the Miguel Soneida Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise in Guines as part of the 31st UJC anniversary celebration. Members of the national UJC bureau, along with 200 other members, gathered potatoes. [Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision 1800 GMT 4 April]

A delegation from the provincial committee of the Communist Party of Cuba visited the Melena del Sur Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise to help with the potato harvest. The delegation was headed by Jorge Lezcano Perez, first secretary of the party in Havana. [Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision 0000 GMT 6 April]

Ricardo Alarcon and Nelson Torres Perez participated in the establishment of the administrative council of the Provincial Assemply of the People's Government in Cienfuegos. Alarcon stressed the importance of these administrative councils in the operation of the people's councils, adding that the councils simplify the entire administrative process. [Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision]

Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, Jaime Crombet, Alfredo Hondal, and Jorge Valdes participated in a ceremony to observe the creation of the administrative councils of Ciego de Avila and Sancti Spiritus Provinces. [Cuba Vision 0000 GMT 7 April]

Jose Ramon Balaguer praised the work of the Cuban radio during an award ceremony held in connection with the 15th Cuban Radio Festival. [Radio Rebelde 2300 GMT 7 April]

Ricardo Alarcon, Jaime Crombet, and Ernesto Suarez participated in the creation of Pinar del Rio Province's administrative council. The provincial council is presided by Central Committee member Jose Marrero

Camacho and also includes a vice president, five vice presidents, a secretary, and 11 members representing several organizations. [Cuba Vision 0000 GMT 9 April]

Julian Rizo Alvarez gave the closing speech at a meeting at San Joaquin Sugarcane Farm in Pinar del Rio Province. Rizo praised the workers and said Cuba has the technical forces to improve sugarcane farming. [Radio Rebelde 2300 GMT 9 April]

Julian Rizo Alvarez participated on 11 April in a ceremony marking National Fishermen's Day. The ceremony, in which several workers were given awards, was held at the wholesale enterprise of the Fishing Industry Ministry. [Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks 0000 GMT 12 April]

### Changes in Electric Service, Television Schedules Announced

*FL0904150893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 9 Apr 93*

[Text] We have received very important information regarding changes in electric service and Cuban television schedules.

Beginning in April, adjustments will be made to the power outage schedule to coordinate maximum-demand periods. These changes include: maintaining the period from 1800 GMT to 2100 GMT; reducing the outage, currently scheduled from 2100 GMT to 0000 GMT, to two hours—the new time will be from 2300 GMT to 0100 GMT; and reducing the current period from 0000 GMT to 0300 GMT by half an hour, to 0000 GMT to 0230 GMT.

To achieve the least possible conflict between this new schedule and programs with the highest number of viewers, the following changes will occur: On Cuba Vision, soap operas have been moved to 0130 GMT, at the closing of which the Television Newscast [NTV] will be rebroadcast. The remainder of the programming will be modified according to these adjustments. Tele Rebelde will remain on its regular schedule. Changes in the television schedule will begin on Monday, 12 April.

Although summer time contributes to a reduction in electricity consumption and maximum demand, the demand remains high for electricity generation capabilities. For this reason, continued maximum cooperation is requested from the populace. The state sector must strengthen measures to eliminate electric loads that are not necessary between 0000 GMT and 0200 GMT.

On 10 April, representatives from the Ministry of Basic Industry and the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television will appear on the "This Very Day" program on Tele Rebelde Network at 0130 GMT to explain details of the adjustments to electric service and television programming.

## Dominica

### Opposition Parties Say Long Recess 'Undemocratic'

*FL0904142593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1344 GMT 9 Apr 93*

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, April 9, CANA—The Dominica Parliament will reconvene May 10, after a five-month break. Opposition parties here would prefer an earlier sitting. They say the long recess is undemocratic and that the government is shying away from Parliament because of its one-seat majority.

"I've always said that Parliament meets for the purpose of passing laws," Prime Minister Dame Eugenia countered.

"... If the laws are not ready to be put before Parliament, you don't call a meeting. At the moment, the meeting is scheduled for May 10," she told the Caribbean News Agency. She said there were three or four acts which, when put before the House, would make it clear that some time had to be taken to produce such legislation. She did not elaborate.

"If you have legislation that is difficult, that is lengthy, that has to be compared with many other (laws) of the world, it will take time. And one has to give the organisations which have to do it the time to do it," the prime minister said.

Both opposition leader Edison James of the United Workers' Party and Labour Party leader Rosie Douglas have been critical of the long gap between parliamentary sittings.

### External Affairs Minister Urges Humanitarian Aid for Cuba

*FL0904143793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1357 GMT 9 Apr 93*

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, April 9, CANA—Dominica's external affairs minister, Brian Alleyne, wants to see Caribbean Community countries help Cuba, hit by a devastating tropical storm in March. He said Dominica owed Cuba a debt of gratitude because Havana helped Dominica after it was ravaged by Hurricane David in 1979.

".... I think the humanitarian reaction of the Caribbean will be seen," he remarked. According to Alleyne, Caricom countries, including Dominica, have been slow to respond to appeals for help, because it took some time for the extent of damage caused by the storm to register.

"But since then, the Caricom secretariat has taken an initiative to coordinate Caribbean assistance. And in response to that initiative, we recently discussed (here) what can Dominica do, and the possibilities are being examined right now," Alleyne reported. He is optimisitic that the Charles government will be able to provide Cuba with "some meaningful assistance."

## Haiti

### Cedras Calls For Rioting Prisoners 'To Keep Calm'

*FL0904124093 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 9 Apr 93*

[Text] A fire set by rioting inmates in a Haitian jail Wednesday [7 April] caused severe damage but no apparent injuries. The revolt broke out in the National Penetentiary in Port-au-Prince. Evidently, the inmates were protesting poor living conditions. Army Chief Raoul Cedras called for the prison population to keep calm and avoid further disaster.

## Jamaica

### Statistical Institute Says Government Maintaining Grip on Inflation

*FL1104195893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1710 GMT 11 Apr 93*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 11, CANA—Consumer prices in Jamaica were up 0.9 per cent in January as the government maintained a grip on inflation which galloped in 1992. According to new data released by the Statistical Institute, the consumer price index for the 12 month period up to January was 34.2 per cent, less than half of the 87.3 per cent recorded between January 1991 and January 1992. For the first 10 months of the fiscal year which ended last March 30, inflation was 19 per cent compared with 82.4 per cent for the same period in the previous fiscal year. The government projected that inflation for the just-ended fiscal year would be held within the 25 per cent range, against 102 per cent for fiscal 1991/92.

"We have inflation largely under control," a senior government technocrat said. "The task now is to keep it there."

Finance Minister Hugh Small is to deliver a budget next month that is expected to have among its major features a tight anti-inflationary policy following recent cuts in personal income tax, public sector wage increases, a softening of inflation, and the lowering of import duties under the Caribbean Community's Common External Tariff (CET).

The government has said it expects to recoup some of the taxation losses through more efficient tax collection and by bringing many more people within the tax net.

"But I wouldn't be surprised if there were other measures to ease a possible downward impact on the dollar that some of the recent policy measures can cost," a government technocrat told CANA. "You will recall that inflation was rampant when the Jamaican dollar was tumbling in the first quarter of 1992."

In the meantime, the gap on visible trade declined by nearly 6 per cent during the first 11 months of last year—to U.S. 534.8 million dollars from U.S. 566.6 million dollars for January to November 1992—but officials were concerned over a continuing decline in the value of exports. For the first 11 months of last year, Jamaica exported U.S. 995.2 million dollars, U.S. 58.9 million dollars less than the corresponding period in 1991.

Most of the decline was accounted for in an 8.4 per cent or U.S. 50.5 dollar drop in the value of crude materials, almost entirely bauxite and alumina. Although production has been up in this key mineral sector, Jamaica has suffered as a result of soft world market prices for the commodity.

The comparative trade figures for last year are also distorted by the re-export of two aircraft in 1991 under a sale-lease back arrangement by Air Jamaica. The aircraft were valued at U.S. 65.2 million dollars. While officials remained concerned about the performance of exports, they were relatively buoyed by the performance of imports which, when the 1991 aircraft deal is excluded, declined U.S. 25.5 million dollars to U.S. 1,530 million dollars. However, some analysts argue that maintaining this lid on imports might have been at the expense of production.

They note that the importation of capital goods declined 14.1 per cent or by U.S. 41.8 million dollars during the first 11 months of last year, while the performance of raw materials was static. At the same time, imports of consumer goods increased 6.4 per cent to U.S. 257.6 million dollars.

### Final Results of General Elections Reported

*FL0904212693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1847 GMT 9 Apr 93*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 9, CANA—Following are the final counts in 58 of 60 constituencies contested in the March 30 general elections, as declared by Jamaica's Electoral Office. The People's National Party (PNP) has so far won 51 to the Jamaica Labour Party's (JLP) seven. Results in West Rural St. Andrew and North Western St. Andrew are still outstanding.

(1) Constituency—West Kingston
electors—14,389
Earl Spencer, PNP, 610
Edward Seaga, JLP, 11,905

(2) Constituency—Central Kingston
electors—18,135
Leslie Lloyd, PNP, 9,011
Olivia "Babsy" Grange, JLP, 6,641

(3) Constituency—Eastern Kingston (Port Royal)
electors—15,630
Marjorie Taylor, PNP, 10,607
Danny French, JLP, 885
Denzil Taylor, Republican [Rep], 5

(4) Constituency—West Rural, St. Andrew
electors—19,207
Vernon Robinson, PNP [results still outstanding]
Seth Ramocan, JLP
Clive Smith, Rep

(5) Constituency—Western, St. Andrew
electors—19,987
Oneil Williams, PNP, 11,8221
Owen Stephenson, JLP, 1,637

(6) Constituency—West Central, St. Andrew
electors—20,301
Arnold Nicholson, PNP, 11,774
George Bromfield, JLP, 6,193

(7) Constituency—East Central, St. Andrew
electors—21,490
Arthur Jones, PNP, 13,257
Rupert Wilmot-Farncis, JLP, 2,924

(8) Constituency—South Western, St. Andrew
electors—18,104
Portia Simpson, PNP, 16,126
Basil Smith, JLP, 74

(9) Constituency—Southern, St. Andrew
electors—23,884
Hartley "Bobby" Jones, PNP, 17,373
Desmond Mckenzie, JLP, 5,530

(10) Constituency—South Eastern, St. Andrew
electors—14,252
Easton Douglas, PNP, 7,321
Harold Brady, JLP, 3,009

(11) Constituency—Eastern, St. Andrew
electors—15,038
Collington "Colin" Campbell, PNP, 5,107
Edmund Bartlett, JLP, 4,446

(12) Constituency—North East, St. Andrew
electors—13,338
Karlene Kirlew-Robertson, PNP, 3,769
Douglas Vaz, JLP, 3,713

(13) Constituency—North Central, St. Andrew
electors—12,871
Karl Samuda, PNP, 3,883
Tom Tavares-Finson, JLP, 3,712

(14) Constituency—North Western, St. Andrew
electors—15,637
Jepthad Ford, PNP, [results still outstanding]
Derrick Smith, JLP

(15) Constituency—East Rural, St. Andrew
electors—16,635
Horace Clue, PNP, 6,248
Rudyard Spencer, JLP, 3,267
Joan Gordan-Webley, Independent [Ind], 719

(16) Constituency—Western, St. Thomas
electors—20,828
Anthony Hylton, PNP, 7,344
Errol Anderson, JLP, 4,832

(17) Constituency—Eastern, St. Thomas
electors—17,855
Fenton Ferguson, PNP, 7,203
Pearnel Charles, JLP, 5,645

(18) Constituency—Eastern Portland
electors—18,442
Headley Lawrence, PNP, 5,300
Percival Latouche, JLP, 3,779
Lawrence Robertson, Ind, 1,387

(19) Constituency—Western Portland
electors—14,768
Errol Ennis, PNP, 5,847
Holden Hammond, JLP, 4,440

(20) Constituency—South Eastern, St. Mary
electors - 16,117
Harry Douglas, PNP, 5,753
Alva Ross, JLP, 5,344

(21) Constituency—Central, St. Mary
electors—15,386
Horace Clarke, PNP, 6,834
Garth Martin, JLP, 2,984
Donald King, 29

(22) Constituency—Western, St. Mary
electors—18,975
Terrence Gillette, PNP, 7,273
Hyacinth Knight, JLP, 4,900

(23) Constituency—South Eastern, St. Catherine
electors—19,927
Paul Robertson, PNP, 9,869
Kingsley Sangster, JLP, 2,508

(24) Constituency—East Central, St. Catherine
electors—14,564
Keith Knight, PNP, 6,879
Marvalyn Taylor-Wright, JLP, 2,101

(25) Constituency—West Central, St. Catherine
electors—15,657
Trevor Dewdney, PNP, 2,985
Enid Bennett, JLP, 3,070
Marlene Elliot, Ind, 1,685

(26) Constituency—North Central, St. Catherine
electors—13,563
phyllis Mitchell, PNP, 3,964
Anthony Johnson, JLP, 3,823

(27) Constituency—South Central St. Catherine
electors—15,554
Heather Robinson, PNP, 7,608
Aldrick "Allie" McNabb, JLP, 4,490

(28) Constituency—South East, St. Ann
electors—15,575
Seymour Mullings, PNP, 7,196
Harry Douglas, JLP, 1,946

(29) Constituency—North East, St. Ann
electors—17,627
Manley Bowen, PNP, 6,410
Robert McFarlane, JLP, 4,876

(30) Constituency—North Western, St. Ann
electors—17,268
Burchell Whiteman, PNP, 5,704
Ernest Smith, JLP, 5,423

(31) Constituency—South Western, St. Ann
electors—14,041
Glenville Shaw, PNP, 4,885
Neville Gallimore, JLP, 4,900

(32) Constituency—North, Trelawny
electors—19,398
Desmond Leakey, 7,777
Burchell Whiteman, PNP, 5,704
Keith Russell, JLP, 6,543

(33) Constituency—Southern, Trelawny
electors—12,775
Nigel Moore, PNP, 4,728
Brascoe Lee, JLP, 5,082

(34) Constituency—East Central, St. James
electors—12,813
Violet Neilson, PNP, 4,446
Godfrey Dyer, JLP, 4,215

(35) Constituency—North Western, St. James
electors—18,347
Carl Miller, PNP, 5,152
Charles Sinclair, JLP, 4,043

(36) Constituency—West Central, St. James
electors—15,215
Arthur Nelson, PNP, 5,215
Anthony Lewin, JLP, 3,439

(37) Constituency—Southern, St. James
electors—14,399
Derrick Kellier, PNP, 6,113
Ephraim Morgan, JLP, 2,735

(38) Constituency—Eastern, Hanover
electors—15,080
Francis Tulloch, PNP, 6,274
Horace Chang, JLP, 4,476

(39) Constituency—Western, Hanover
electors—16,588
Benjamin Clare, PNP, 6,425
Hugh Dawes, JLP, 4,396

(40) Constituency—Western, Westmoreland
electors—17,676
Trevor Ruddock, PNP, 7,094
Russell Hammond, JLP, 4,869

(41) Constituency—Central, Westmoreland
electors—21,534
Karl Blythe, PNP, 8,917
Astill Sangster, JLP, 4,752

(42) Constituency—Eastern, Westmoreland
electors—18,236
Percival Patterson, PNP, 8,468
Stafford Earle, JLP, 2,706

(43) Constituency—North West, St. Elizabeth
electors—15,407
Melford Brown, PNP, 5,312
Neville Lewis, JLP, 5,024

(44) Constituency—North East, St. Elizabeth
electors—18,329
Roger Clarke, PNP, 7,651
Winston Lewis, JLP, 3,154

(45) Constituency—South Western, St. Elizabeth
electors—16,735
Donald Buchanan, PNP, 6,552
Derrick Sangster, JLP, 6,134

(46) Constituency—South Eastern, St. Elizabeth
electors—17,034
Derrick Rochester, PNP, 6,708
Louis Powell, JLP, 5,700

(47) Constituency—Southern, Manchester
electors—16,711
Michael Peart, PNP, 6,061
Lloyd Bent, JLP, 4,802

(48) Constituency—Central, Manchester
electors—17,021
John Junor, PNP, 5,960
Oswald Harding, JLP, 4,356

(49) Constituency—North Western, Manchester
electors—14,488
Dean Peart, PNP, 5,859
Neville Bourne, JLP, 2,653

(50) Constituency—North Eastern, Manchester
electors—15,600
Churchill Neita, PNP, 5,564
Audley Shaw, JLP, 6,359

(51) Constituency—North Western, Clarendon
electors—16,926
Carl Marshall, PNP, 5,840
Lola Ramacon, JLP, 4,931
Clinton McFarlane, Rep., 56

(52) Constituency—Northern, Clarendon
electors—14,814
Horace Dalley, PNP, 6,069
Edwin Singh, JLP, 4,418
Vincent Smith, Rep., 34

(53) Constituency—North Central, Clarendon
electors—13,803
George Lyn, PNP, 5,055
Bindley Sangster, JLP, 3,459

(54) Constituency—Central, Clarendon
electors—15,395
Derrick Webb, PNP, 4,497
Lester Mike Henry, JLP, 6,604

(55) Constituency—South Western, Clarendon
electors—14,486
Orville Ramtallie, PNP, 7,132
Arthur Williams, JLP, 3,465

(56) Constituency—South Eastern, Clarendon
electors—18,533
Peter Bunting, PNP, 6,657
Hugh Shearer, JLP, 5,218

(57) Constituency—North Western, St. Catherine
electors—17,099
Robert Pickersgill, 6,266
Sandra Nesbeth, JLP, 2,857

(58) Constituency—South Western, St. Catherine
electors—20,943
Rudyard Lawson, PNP, 7,209
Everald Warmington, JLP, 5,768
Theophilus Dawkins, Ind., 42

(59) Constituency—Southern, St. Catherine
electors—12,646
Hugh Small, PNP, 4,906
Michael Williams, JLP, 2,562

(60) Constituency—Central, St. Catherine
electors—19,404
Clinton Davy, 2,895
Bruce Golding, JLP, 13,347

## Trinidad and Tobago

### House of Representatives Approves Floating Exchange Rate for T&T Dollar

*FL1104200293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1836 GMT 11 Apr 93*

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 11, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago House of Representatives Saturday night [10 April] gave approval to a government decision to introduce a floating exchange rate for the T&T dollar in relation to the U.S. dollar from Tuesday [13 April]. Having been passed by the Lower House of the legislature, the bill amending the Central Bank Act to allow the liberalisation of the foreign exchange regime and the floating of the T&T dollar, will go Monday [12 April] before the Senate for approval. The United National Congress (UNC) and the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), the opposition parties in the Lower House, voted against the bill.

Up to last Wednesday [7 April] when trading in foreign exchange was curtailed on the orders of the government, the exchange rate was 4.25 T&T dollars to 1 U.S. Several analysts predicted the T&T dollar would be devalued in initial trading under the new free market system.

During the debate, Junior Finance Minister Ken Valley said the exchange rate of currencies other than the U.S. dollar in relation to the T&T dollar would be determined by the relation of those currencies to the U.S. dollar.

## Businessman Says Commerce Hurting Due to Street Peddling

*PA0704184593 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Apr 93*

[Report by Susana Castaneira]

[Text] Guillermo Gazal, president of Procentrico [expansion unknown] reported organized commerce in Mexico lost 600,000 jobs between 1992 and the first trimester of 1993.

[Begin Gazal recording] Thirty percent of factories in nearly the entire country have closed between last year and now. Factories of all sorts, including those dealing with shoes, textiles, and jewelry, have closed. [end recording]

In a news conference Mr. Gazal said the cause of this situation is the disorderly growth of street peddling:

[Begin Gazal recording] A poll we conducted in Mexico City indicates there are 149,000 established businessmen and 137,000 street vendors. If this continues, there will be more of the latter. [end recording]

Mr. Gazal demanded that city authorities apply the full force of the law to relocate street vendors:

[Begin Gazal recording] Leaders such as Guillermina Rico, Alejandra Barrios, and Benita Echevarria refuse to leave the historical center of Mexico City. We demand they leave because we can no longer shoulder the burden. There have been many bankruptcies in the historical center and Mexico City. I think this is unfair. [end recording]

## Costa Rica

### Calderon Against Establishing Ties With PRC

*PA0904134593 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 6 Apr 93 p 5A*

[Article by Nelson Murillo]

[Text] "Not during my government." This was President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier's response to a question on the possibilities of Costa Rica establishing diplomatic relations with China, which has a communist government.

The president said: "I am pro-Taipei. We have excellent relations with the Republic of China in Taiwan," [as published] the government of which is capitalist. Calderon stated that he has never thought about traveling to mainland China, as some political sources have reported.

According to documents acquired by this newspaper, Plutarco Hernandez, Costa Rican consul in Moscow, Russia, has visited Beijing. This could be interpreted as a rapprochement gesture by Costa Rica and China.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus reported that his government maintains commercial ties with China and explained that this does not affect the diplomatic and economic ties that link Costa Rica and Taiwan.

After saying that the situation that exists now is the same that existed during past administrations, Niehaus said that the Executive Branch backs Taiwan's position in favor of democracy and liberty. He admitted, however, that communist China is a giant market for Costa Rican exporters. "We cannot ignore that," he said.

In Niehaus' opinion, the country is going through an economic-opening process that requires increased exports. "We are interested in exporting our products to all parts of the world but unconditionally and without political sacrifices," Niehaus said.

It has been reported that last year Costa Rica sold 500 tons of coffee to China, which has a population of 1.3 billion.

Felix Wang, press secretary of the Republic of China in Taiwan has said that "all countries are free to maintain commercial relations with whomever they please, including mainland China." He said that "the embassy prefers not to give its opinion" on commercial ties with Beijing.

Mr. Wang added that last year Taiwan exported $35,141,700 worth of goods to Costa Rica, which exported $2,453,700 in goods to that Asian state.

## El Salvador

### Police Special Units Seize 'Large Amount' of Weapons

*PA0804173893 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Apr 93*

[Text] National Police special units acting on timely information located and seized a large amount of weapons on 6 April. According to reports issued by Lieutenant Colonel Guardado, National Police deputy chief, the weapons were found on a farm called San Francisco in Nejapa. The police made no arrests, but it is believed that the weapons belong to former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrillas.

[Begin Guardado recording] According to the information we have, the cache is part of the weaponry the FMLN used during the war. [end recording]

The police action, according to Lt. Col. Guardado, is part of a plan to collect weapons reserved for the exclusive use of the Armed Forces.

[Begin Guardado recording] This is part of ongoing police operations to collect as soon as possible all materiel either banned or used exclusively by the Armed Forces. The operation supports a truly democratic system. [end recording]

The weapons will be stored in warehouses and destroyed at a later date, which could very well be during the week of 12 April.

## Panama

### Endara May Veto Amnesty Law Involving Common Crimes

*PA0804201693 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Apr 93 p 1A*

[Text] President Guillermo Endara on 7 April said he would veto any amnesty law involving common crimes such as embezzlement, murder, and human rights violations.

Endara said the Panamanian Constitution clearly explains amnesty "and it should only be granted for cases of political crime."

"Amnesty is possible as long as the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] does not continue to promote violence the way it is doing now because amnesty cannot be discussed in the climate they are creating and, on the contrary, they must create a climate of tranquillity, harmony, and brotherhood so that a political amnesty can be granted," the president said.

In the last few weeks the PRD and groups of followers have staged a series of violent actions, especially inside the Legislative Assembly building, to pressure the legislators into discussing an amnesty bill submitted by PRD Legislator Alberto Aleman Boyd.

Last week the Legislative Assembly sessions were characterized by different types of violent actions going all the way from the destruction of the doors leading into the sessions hall by PRD Legislator Miguel Bush to the takeover of the building by PRD activists.

The activists included relatives of the nearly 50 people of the former regime being held under arrest. They disturbed the assembly sessions and demanded the discussion of an amnesty bill.

"I will not agree to any amnesty that is not political because we must remember that it is the law and I can veto it," Endara said.

The president said "the bill should strictly limit itself to political crimes and it should not include murder, embezzlement, or human rights violations because if it does, I would veto the bill."

The bill submitted by Legislator Alberto Aleman Boyd includes Manuel Antonio Noriega himself, his family, Nivaldo Madrinan, Luis Papo Cordoba, Pale Rodriguez, Felipe Camargo, Cleto Hernandez, Mario del Cid, as well as other military officers and civilians.

Moreover, Foreign Minister Julio Linares asked with what "morals are they (the PRD people) asking for an amnesty for people who killed, tortured, and stole."

Meanwhile, Electoral Tribunal President Eduardo Valdes Escoffery said that if amnesty includes electoral crimes, "this would be a double-edged sword" because all those who are being investigated for their illegal actions during the 1989 elections would be pardoned.

Valdes said he is concerned about the elimination of all punishment for those who have committed electoral crimes because we need to set good examples and during the 1994 elections there must be respect for the electoral code, the reform of which is still being discussed at the Legislative Assembly.

Valdes said that otherwise there would be no punishment that could serve as an example for people to respect the electoral code and even though the electoral pardon gives one more opportunity to people to reconsider and respect the electoral code, he is sure there will be those who will think differently.

## Banking Commission Members on Fighting Money Laundering

*PA0804170793 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Apr 93*

[Text] The corruption network that was created during Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello's administration has laundered money by transferring funds through Panama and the Virgin Islands and later recovering these funds in Uruguay. This was reported by Brazilia police sources, indicating that the laundering of Collor's illegal funds was carried out through banks in Panama.

Panamanian National Banking Commission members have suggested new restrictions, not only at the banking level but also in some nongovernmental institutions, to combat money laundering in Panama. According to Eudoro Jaen, National Banking Commission director, the recommendation to report operations involving more than $10,000 in cash, not only in banks but also in nongovernmental institutions, was made during recent meetings with the Colon Free Zone Users Association. The Technical Judicial Police, National Police, Customs Directorate, and other state security organizations also participated in these meetings. The main goal of these meetings is to find a solution to the serious problem of increased money laundering in Panama. Here is what Eudoro Jaen said:

[Begin Jaen recording] We are not saying we are going to control, it is only a measure to record. When I say administrative control this means that someone will be in charge of registering any person who makes a purchase in cash for over $10,000, which is being done at the banks. If you make a cash deposit of $10,000 or more, you must fill out a form. This form is kept on file at the bank; it is not public. It is a private document that is at the disposal of a competent authority for possible future investigation. [end recording]

The Customs reporting of funds being brought into the country is another alternative suggested by the Commission. Nevertheless, the decision to broaden or not control measures is in the hands of the government. It is the government's responsibility to determine, when the time comes, which companies would be in charge of adopting those restrictions or administrative controls. The main objective of these controls is to establish the necessary mechanism to avoid increased money-laundering activities in Panama.

## Canal Commission Board of Directors Elects New President

*PA0904162693 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Apr 93 p 3A*

[Text] The Panama Canal Commission Board of Directors elected John W. Shannon as its new president during the Board's third quarterly meeting of Fiscal Year 1993 on 7 April at Balboa Heights.

Shannon, who is acting U.S. secretary of the Army, replaces Michael P. W. Stone, who tendered his resignation on 20 January for undisclosed reasons.

Board members Cecilia Alegre, Luis Anderson, William Carl, John Danilovich, Robert McMillan, Alfredo Ramirez, John Shannon, Walter Shea, and Joaquin Vallarino were present for the meeting.

U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton, Jaime Ford, the Panamanian Ambassador to the United States, and U.S. Ambassador-designate to Nicaragua John Maisto also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Panama Canal Administrator Gilberto Guardia Fabrega presented his quarterly report, in which he highlighted toll revenues and projects regarding the locks, including the maintenance work on several of the Gatun lock doors and the Pedro Miguel fire prevention system. He also reported on the long-range plan to widen Galliard Cut.

Guardia also informed the Board of Directors about a series of conferences hosted by Canal officials for the members of the Presidential Commission for Panama Canal Affairs, who are responsible for drafting a law to rule the waterway after the transition period.

The canal administrator gave details of his meeting with U.S. congressmen to explain the details of the commission budget for next fiscal year, which begins on 1 October 1993.

The commission issued a news bulletin on 8 April highlighting as the positive aspects of its work its efforts to strengthen relations with Canal customers and to promote the use of the Canal facilities.

## Linares Accuses U.S. of 'Depriving' Government of G-2 Documents

*PA1104170193 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 11 Apr 93 p 1A*

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares accused the United States of "depriving" Panama of the documents seized at the G-2 installations during the 20 December 1989 invasion.

Linares' report is incorporated in the recent memoirs that the Foreign Relations Ministry presented before the Legislative Assembly, which includes an exchange of correspondence with the U.S. Embassy.

The foreign minister's reaction was prompted by the U.S. State and Justice Departments' refusal to cooperate with the Panamanian Government to gain access to G-2 documents in the custody of the Southern Command. These documents reportedly would be used in legal actions against Manuel Antonio Noriega and his cronies.

The Panamanian official called the U.S. Government decision a "serious deprivation" as it "deprived" Panama of providing evidence in a suit in the UK to recover government funds diverted by Noriega.

"The government cannot accept being deprived of and banned from using documents that belong to it," Linares warned. In addition, he criticized the U.S. policy of not losing one opportunity to request Panamanian cooperation in matters of interest to them, while not responding accordingly to Panamanian requests.

U.S. Charge d'Affairs David Beall explained that they could not allow access to the G-2 files until the process being carried out at the time (early 1992) in Miami against Noriega was completed.

Other official documents reveal that in May of 1992, the United States offered a slow and impractical alternative to meet Panama's requests.

## Argentina

### Foreign Minister on Relations With UK

*PA1104213293 Paris AFP in Spanish 2009 GMT 11 Apr 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (AFP)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella announced on 11 April that the UK and Argentine Governments recently decided not to allow their disagreements on fishing and oil exploration in the South Atlantic Ocean to "contaminate their bilateral relations."

The diplomat pointed out that "there is a protective umbrella" that will allow their relationship "to continue developing normally," despite differences with respect to issues on fishing and crude oil exploration around the Malvinas and Georgias Islands.

In recent statements to the media, Di Tella stated that until such differences have been solved, "(Argentine) President Carlos Menem will not travel to London."

"Because of these issues, we have never received a formal invitation from the UK Government," Di Tella said, commenting on the postponement of a trip the Argentine Government had planned since the beginning of the year.

In addition to the conflict surrounding the islands' sovereignty, both government's have discussed issues related to how many fishing licenses should be authorized in the South Atlantic and Buenos Aires' claims of rights to participate in the exploration for and eventual crude oil extraction.

Di Tella said that despite a mutual relations preservation agreement, "Argentina will reject" a possible unilateral widening of the 12 to 200 mile exclusive economic zone surrounding the Georgias Islands, located east of the Malvinas.

The Argentine Government has been insisting that the UK is preparing to widen the exclusion zone. There has been no official comment from London on the issue.

### Taiwan Remains Interested in Buying Tanks, Factory

*PY0904224893 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 6 Apr 93 pp 2, 3*

[Text] Despite the resounding frustrated attempt to buy six submarines, the Taiwanese Government has hopes of purchasing Argentine weapons. It now has expressed interest in obtaining at least 200 tanks, but the Argentine Government has not yet replied to the request.

Middlemen at the Taiwanese Embassy in Argentina—the two retired soldiers who tried to buy the submarines—in August 1992 sent a letter to former Defense Minister Erman Gonzalez in which they offered to buy the tanks.

Taiwan wanted to buy 50 light tanks manufactured by TAMSE [Medium Argentine Tank Factory, State Enterprise] in Buenos Aires' Boulogne District. Each tank costs $1.5 million. If this operation succeeded, Taiwan would have purchased another 150 tanks. A total of $300 million was at stake.

But if this amount shocked Defense Ministry officials, they were even more surprised when they learned that Taiwan sought to buy the tank factory to refurbish 1,500 tanks.

The operation is at a standstill because the Defense Ministry is not very accustomed to dealing with this type of offer. Taiwan will try again to make the proposal with newly appointed Defense Minister Oscar Camilion, who replaced Gonzalez on 5 April.

The government of Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, decided to buy the Argentine tanks instead of the submarines for obvious reasons: This southeast Asian country recently purchased eight Germany submarines similar to the model manufactured in Argentina. But the operation failed after eight years of negotiations.

The Taiwan Embassy in Argentina reportedly told the middlemen: "Submarines are no longer included in our budget, but we still want to buy the tanks."

After this new order, the middlemen (a Navy official and a pilot) almost immediately contacted the Defense Ministry and made the offer.

But Defense Ministry officials received the offer at a very inappropriate time: Defense Ministry Planning Secretary Jorge Pereyra de Olazabal was making arrangements to call for a bid to privatize TAMSE.

As soon as they learned about the privatization date, the Taiwanese Government instructed the middlemen to present an offer for the factory's total cost.

Early in November, four months after Taiwan made the offer to the Defense Ministry, three deputies from the Radical Civic Union (Victorio Bisciotti, Juan Octavio Gauna, and Augusto Spinosa) reported that the Argentine Government rejected the United Arab Emirates's offer to buy 500 tanks.

The opposition lawmakers released the text of a letter sent by Brigadier Saif Sultan Al Arvani, of the Joint Staff of the Emirates Ground Force Command [name and title as published], to TAMSE representative Carlos Sain, in which he required details on the Argentine tank's capabilities. The Arabs reportedly offered $1 billion.

Taiwan also made a good offer. It would have paid $300 million for the purchase of the 200 tanks (50 in principle, plus 150 additional ones). But if it really wanted to buy the factory and refurbish some 1,500 tanks, the total amount to be paid to Argentina would have greatly surpassed the Arabs' offer.

An Argentine diplomatic source, who asked not to be identified, told CLARIN that Taiwan always "makes these efforts"—alluding to its continuous demand to buy weapons in Argentina—"to then obtain some type of compensation and be recognized as a country that is independent of Communist China."

### Increased Trade With China Planned

*PY1104031993 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1826 GMT 10 Apr 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (TELAM)—Diplomatic sources reported that Argentina and the PRC will increase their trade exchange in the fields of agriculture and livestock. The sources added that special commissions from the two countries are working on that.

It was emphasized that the PRC is mainly interested in purchasing grains, meat, and fish products because its production in these fields is insufficient to supply a market of 1.2 billion people.

Agriculture Deputy Minister Zhang Yanxi [name and title as received] just finished a tour leading "an advance team" to sign agreements that may favor both countries because the PRC also is interested in increasing its exports.

During his six-day visit to Argentina, Zhang held a series of meetings with members from the official and private areas. During these meetings he clearly explained his country's interest in increasing trade exchange with Argentina, thus projecting itself toward the Common Market of the South.

The PRC Embassy in Buenos Aires reported that the PRC's sales on the international market totalled $85 billion in 1992, while imports totalled $80 billion.

The diplomatic sources stated that the new PRC Government has opened the country's economy to allow products from all parts of the world to enter the PRC market.

### Air Force Hospital Prepared for Service in Mozambique

*PY1004150993 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1312 GMT 10 Apr 93*

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (TELAM)—Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier Jose Julia "has ordered" the preparation of a "mobile" hospital to be sent to Mozambique along with medical specialists and assistants in response to a United Nations request.

The "mobile" hospital is manned by 40 specialists in medicine and support personnel.

The Air Force Health Directorate has already selected the personnel, among whom are surgeons, general practitioners, intensive care unit personnel, dentists, biochemists, radiology assistants, hospital and surgery nurses, surgical instrument assistants, and emergency personnel.

It is reported that the personnel are highly skilled, that they are perfectly well aware of their responsibilities and functions, and that they could even exchange roles to suit operational needs.

The hospital, a unique medical center in Argentina, is a complete and complex medical care unit that can be transported by air or through other channels to render services in combat areas or in civil emergency areas in peacetime.

The unit has 11 container-type modules that can be clustered and are perfectly well isolated from the outside. The unit has 11 beds, an operations theater, an intensive care unit, a radiology unit, an emergency unit, and a dentistry unit. It can operate in temperatures ranging from 30 degrees below zero to 60 degrees Celsius. [passage omitted]

### Defense Minister on Armed Forces' Reorganization

*PY0904203293 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Apr 93 p 6*

[Interview with Defense Minister Oscar Camilion by unidentified reporter in Camilion's office on 7 April]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [LA PRENSA] How is it possible to address the hot issue of low salaries for military cadres? Can the problem be solved by reducing the number of personnel?

[Camilion] Without a reorganization, which will certainly imply personnel reduction, it will be very difficult to improve salaries in the short term. This is clear. But we should answer questions about matters that are currently being analyzed: What will happen to the troops, what will happen to compulsory military service, what will be Argentina's answer to the army of professionals or the army of volunteers. Military service today obviously does not represent what it represented for my generation. Very few people render military service, which has thus turned not into fiction but into something different from what it was in the past. The main point is the reform, in which the military is undoubtedly interested; but it also wants to be sure that a military reform sponsored by civilians will not mean "we will reduce spending and will strip you of some of your functions."

[LA PRENSA] Nowhere in the world do the armed forces reorganize on their own. In the United States, after World War II, the Armed Forces were subordinated to the government. After that period, what is the position that you have found in the Armed Forces with respect to this political decision?

[Camilion] The Armed Forces will propose all kinds of creative ideas, but this is actually a political decision. The government should make the decision. You would not ask any foreign ministry in the world to "reschedule your priorities and list the embassies that would be closed," because no embassy will be closed. You have to say, based on a political decision, "this embassy will be

closed." The same thing happens with the reorganization of the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces should propose all the technical criteria.

[LA PRENSA] Can you give a deadline for the presentation of your proposal to the executive branch with the guidelines for reorganization?

[Camilion] Not yet. It would be very rash of me to give a deadline. But we will try to do it as soon as possible.

[LA PRENSA] Will the new constitutional government have reorganized the Armed Forces?

[Camilion] I believe the guidelines should be very clear for that moment.

[LA PRENSA] The ballistics industry has played a deterrent role in international relations. In Argentina, this role was played by the Condor missile. What do you think about the decisions that were made and the final fate of the Condor-2?

[Camilion] On the one hand, I believe each country is entitled to have its own technological development. On the other hand, all countries should recognize the limits imposed by the international situation, and the priorities imposed by the preservation of peace and security. I believe that coordinating those two factors is a major political task. There are limits that should not be trespassed, but countries have the right to achieve technological development. There is also the fact that whatever has been learned is not forgotten.

[LA PRENSA] Some observers maintain that you have kept a low profile until now, claiming that you are holding a temporary position before reaching your position in President Menem's cabinet.

[Camilion] First, I will continue with my low profile because I have faith in it and because I like it. It is my style. Second, I hope I will be able to support the president by discharging the duties that he entrusted me, which I consider very important. Defense work is fascinating, and I believe that following the state reconstruction process in the defense area is a priority. I believe the lack of a political commitment implies some freedom of action for moving forward as necessary. I feel very comfortable here and I hope I will stay for a long time.

## Former Defense Minister Evaluates Condor Project

*PY0904223693 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 7 Apr 93 pp 16, 17*

[Article by Horacio Jaunarena, defense minister during the Alfonsin administration]

[Text] The subject of the Condor project has resurfaced lately. Like a mythical bird reborn from its ashes, it would seem that this project refuses to acknowledge itself beaten. The problem arose this time when our country was asked to account for its failure to ship to Spain the "intelligent head" with the project's remaining parts.

The incident, however, was instrumental in revealing that the parts remitted to Spain, which were allegedly going to be used for a civilian aerospace project to be developed jointly with Spain, were in fact bound for the United States as their final destination, where they were to be destroyed. That was to be the end of what took so many years of work to construct.

The Argentine Government's reaction to these events was, as expected, in keeping with its full alignment with the United States—it reiterated that it was willing to let those foreigners who wished to do so search high and low in order to dispel any doubts they might have. In fact the only discomfort it had was not its flagrant pretensions to venturing in areas befitting a state that has a minimum degree of self-respect but rather that it became public that the final destination of the parts, which the government made us believe would end up in Spain, was the United States, where they were to be destroyed.

We already have stated that the Condor project seemingly refuses to die. If we thoroughly examined this question, we would be able to shed light on the reasons why the government's policy on this issue is obviously unpopular.

The Condor project would have enabled Argentina to develop technology to put a satellite into intermediate orbit with its own launcher. If our country forgoes moving ahead with this project, it will be tantamount not only to renouncing once and for all having that type of capability, but also to refusing to acquire the necessary know-how in a key area for future development. Besides, it will hamper Argentine scientists from continuing their research on the extraordinary possibilities this type of technology offers them.

It goes without saying that one may contend that this technology has a military use also. Granted that is true, but it also is true that there are a myriad of technologies that have dual uses, but this has not prevented people from developing them. Moreover, if we can name something that has traditionally characterized Argentina, it is precisely its responsible use of technology.

The issue then becomes so serious that it only can be seen in its real dimension when one takes into account the real world situation, which the government stubbornly fails to recognize. It is becoming more obvious that the development of nations has little relationship to their possession of primary wealth. There are rich countries like Japan that can be considered poor in this type of resource, and there are poor countries like ours that traditionally have been considered the owners of wealth that ensured a promising future in a traditional concept.

It is desirable and necessary that Argentina increase the productivity of its industries and try to improve its traditional exports. But it should be understood that it

will never be able to close the gap with the developed countries this way. To achieve that goal Argentina will have to do exactly the opposite of what it is doing: The development of new technology implies moving ahead on the good path of recovering lost time (after all, if the world was concerned about us in the last few years, it was precisely because of the technology we were developing) and opening a gap through which an export capability that is still nonexistent can be found. Investing in research produces a contagious effect that improves the quality of our scientific research at the same time.

No one will find enough reasons to seriously invest in our country if it looks like a technologically backward country. Also, industry will not come to our country if we are dedicated to making knowledge and qualified education for the privilege of a few—a model that leaves the country on its own at the service of the market—instead of making that right everyone's privilege, which is the Argentine model we want.

Giving up the development of new technology, not investing in education, and dismantling our scientific teams will definitely guarantee that we will never be able to enter the First World.

We had the sensation that the Condor was refusing to die and this issue deserved more profound reflection. In reality the concept of a country working hard to get new technology is what refuses to die. A country that does not waste the scientific team that was very hard to build. A country concerned about taking care of and maintaining one of the most precious things it was able to get, that is, continuing its efforts so its people, all its people, will have the possibility of access to a higher and more sophisticated level of knowledge.

## Bolivia

### Minister Rejects Alleged U.S. Position on Drug Enforcement

*PY1004121393 La Paz HOY in Spanish 30 Mar 93 p 6*

[Text] Defense Minister Alberto Saenz Klinsky said on 29 March that top U.S. officials in Bill Clinton's administration are trying to remove the Bolivian Armed Forces from drug enforcement activities. He said this in allusion to a U.S. press report that the Bolivian military has never done anything, and never will do anything, in the nationwide "war" against drug trafficking.

The report says that a top U.S. Government official stated that U.S. drug enforcement policy had failed in the Andean countries, which include Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru. This fact forced the new administration to change its strategy and reduce economic aid by over 50 percent.

The U.S. Government official went so far as to say that the Bolivian military "have never done anything, and never will do anything for drug enforcement." He said they are more interested in the weapons from which they benefit through their cooperation.

Saenz Klinsky said that such statements are completely false and are not in keeping with the country's real situation. He said: "I believe that the results are actually quite obvious in showing the opposite; what is more, the U.S. antinarcotics organizations themselves have recognized the successful Bolivian drug enforcement operations."

He made it clear that the Armed Forces as a whole are not participating in this struggle, but rather through two task forces known as the "Red Devils" from the Air Force and the "Blue Devils" from the Bolivian Navy. They are for the most part providing logistics and intelligence support, rather than participating in full-blown drug enforcement activities.

A project to create a transport battalion will be implemented as soon as the equipment arrives in the country. The Army will engage in drug enforcement activities with this new task force, under the same conditions as the two others.

Communications equipment worth $3 million will be also installed, linking the nationwide antinarcotics operations conducted by the Armed Forces and the police in a more permanent and efficient way.

Saenz Klinsky stated that some U.S. Government officials with tendentious and distorted ideas of the real situation are seeking to remove the Armed Forces from drug enforcement. He said: "This is the only possible explanation for these statements."

He said that "drug enforcement concerns the entire world because of the consequences of drug trafficking. These activities therefore rank above any other interest (whether this be more sophisticated armament, or whatever else)."

He emphasized that the military will continue to thoroughly fulfill their mission whenever Conalid [National Council Against Drug Abuse and Illegal Drug Trafficking] requires it of them.

Asked if his ministry will take any action before the U.S. Government through the Foreign Ministry to clarify the statements, Saenz Klinsky said that it was not necessary, because the results of drug enforcement activities are enough to show the opposite. He added: "Americans themselves know it."

He explained that U.S. aid is earmarked for the antinarcotics task forces, and not for the Armed Forces as a whole.

### Government Repurchases $179 Million in International Debt

*PY1004153393 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 31 Mar 93 p 4*

[Text] Yesterday Bolivia put an "end to a nightmare that lasted ten years" when it reached a plan to repurchase $179 million of its public debt with international private banks, thus recovering its credit by resolving the most critical problem affecting the countries of the third world.

"This is the end of a nightmare that lasted 10 years," said Planning Minister Samuel Doria Medina in Hamburg, Germany, after signing the agreement reached by Bolivia with 42 creditors for solving the debt problem with international banks.

Doria Medina admitted that during that long period "Bolivian private companies had no access to international banks" and that their growth possibilities had been put "virtually in quarantine."

The agreement was signed by Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora and Minister Doria Medina with representatives of the creditor banks, headed by Citibank of New York, according to a DPA report.

The debt repurchased by Bolivia covers 94 percent of the national public debt with private banks, and all that is left is $10 million for a future negotiation.

"We are taking a decisive step on the path toward creating a new Bolivia" said Doria Medina, upon announcing that the "chapter of foreign debt with private banks" had been closed. He labeled the debt as "most uncomfortable for people like us, who are leading a new process."

Doria Medina also said: "It is fitting that at the end of state capitalism the debt crisis of that old model is also coming to an end." He also recalled that "the crisis of the Bolivian debt exploded" in 1983.

The repurchase of the debt reached in Hamburg was drawn within the framework of a mixed operation involving three different mechanisms: direct repurchase of the debt at a price of 16 centavos for every dollar; reinvestment in short-range bonds for preservation of the environment and other social projects; and finally the reinvestment in 30-year term bonds.

This financial transaction will not have any detrimental effect on Bolivia's foreign exchange reserves, as it is funded through foreign aid from the United States, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and the International Development Agency (IDA).

Bolivia has been able to write off $2.007 billion of its external debt over the last three years. Now, with the buy-back agreement signed yesterday, the only pending debt that the Bolivian Government will have to honor is that with multilateral agencies, amounting to $3.60 billion.

Doria Medina recalled that the government first decided to tackle the problem of the country's bilateral debt. He stated that "by means of imaginative financial methods, the government greatly reduced the external debt."

Doria Medina further stated that the buy-back agreement has "dramatically changed the profile of our external debt." Bolivia thus "no longer has onerous or short-term debts."

The planning minister added that "we—Bolivians—may once again cherish the hope that we will become a developed nation, put an end to poverty, channel investments into areas that will create new jobs, and finance development without trauma."

### Correction to Political Groups Register for Elections

*PY0904213593*

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Fourteen Political Groups Register for General Elections," published in the 9 April Latin America DAILY REJORT, page 5:

Column two, first partial paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...National Katarist Movement, MKN, the 9th April.... (correcting acronym MKL to MKN here and throughout item)

Same column, first complete paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...Palenque Aviles and Ivo Kuljis as candidates for.... (clearing name)

Same column, sixth complete paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...MBL registered Antonio Aranibar Quiroga and Miguel Urioste....(correcting name)

Same column, eighth complete paragraph, only sentence, make read: The MKN registered Fernando Untoja and (Tomas Ticuasu) as candidates....(clearing name)

## Brazil

### Poll Finds Majority Unaware of Plebiscite's Objective

*PY1004010493 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 9 Apr 93 p 4*

[Text] Just 12 days before the plebiscite, the Brazilian voter is still unaware of the plebiscite's function. A poll conducted by IBOPE [Brazilian Public Opinion and Statistics Institute] between 31 March and 5 April revealed that more than half of the 2,000 surveyed, 52 percent, do not know the plebiscite's objective, while 47 percent stated that they knew what is to be voted on. The remaining 1 percent did not respond. The nationwide public opinion poll projects a great advantage for the republican form of government, which obtained 58 percent, with respect to the monarchist system, which received 13 percent. The null and blank votes totaled 29 percent.

If the plebiscite was held today, the presidential system would prevail with 52 percent of the votes compared with 18 percent favoring the parliamentarian system. According to IBOPE, the number of null or blank votes will total 30 percent, almost double the votes favoring the parliamentarian system.

Although 47 percent of the voters said they knew the reasons for the plebiscite, only 14 percent gave a correct explanation, and only 34 percent gave a correct but incomplete reply to the question: "What will be decided in this plebiscite or what is to be voted for on 21 April?" In addition, 17 percent gave a completely erroneous answer and 36 percent did not attempt to reply.

Replying to the question, 10 percent linked the plebiscite to the election of a king, prime minister or president. Only 7 percent of the voters gave complete information, with options for the system of government; while 7 percent supported the combination of the three systems to create a presidential, republican, and monarchist form, for example.

According to the poll, 3 percent of those surveyed described the plebiscite as "a prospect of change for the country," and 1 percent said the opposite. In addition, 6 percent of the voters believed the plebiscite will just decide the system of government to be adopted in the country, and 8 percent said the vote will be just on the form of government. But 20 percent of the voters said the plebiscite is designed to choose the "regime," "system of government," or "type of government," but they did not know how to explain the correct significance.

The presidential system added 8 points to the 44 percent of the votes obtained during the poll conducted by IBOPE between 11 and 14 March; support for the republican system was even more significant. It rose from 42 percent to 58 percent.

### National Steel Company Auctioned; Privatization Completed

*PY0904171593 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Apr 93 p 21*

[Text] The National Iron and Steel Company (CSN) is no longer a state-owned enterprise. Its privatization was finalized yesterday, after an uproar on 1 April when the auction sale was delayed for three and a half hours due to several legal actions. Approximately 30 percent of the company's voting stock, however, was not sold because of a lack of interested buyers. Of the 15.34 million lots remaining unsold from the previous auction, 11.5 million were sold at an auction yesterday. The total number of lots sold amounted to 47.73 million, thus surpassing the floor of 43.3 million established in the bidding conditions.

As was expected, the consortium made up of the groups Vicunha and Bamerindus, the trading [preceding word in English] company Emesa, and Docenave gained control of CSN. The company's new chairman has not been appointed yet, but chances are that former CSN chairman Roberto Procopio Lima Netto will be appointed to fill the vacancy, as he is one of the founding members of the consortium. The winning consortium has not established how many members the board of directors will have. Not long before the shares went up for auction, the consortium had decided that it would only buy the necessary number of shares to comply with the requirements established to privatize CSN.

With the purchase of 7.4 million lots by Docenave, 7.1 million lots by Bamerindus, and 6.04 million lots by the Bradesco [Brazilian Discount Bank] Marketing and Participation Union, the privatization of CSN has thus been finalized. According to Fernando Perroni, an attorney working for the BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social Development], this was possible because there is no pending lawsuit against CSN, after the Supreme Court rejected yesterday morning in Brasilia two preliminary injunctions seeking to prevent the auction from taking place. The proceeds from the auction amounted to 28.69 trillion cruzeiros, equivalent to some $1.057 billion taking into account the dollar estimates for 12 April, when CSN will be liquidated.

Herewith is a list of the leading shareholders of CSN, following the proration of shares that were left unsold, some 3.8 million lots that will be sold at a public bidding: Association of CSN employees (10.9 percent); Docenave (9.40 percent); Bamerindus (9.19 percent); Vichunha (9.13 percent); Bradesco (7.66 percent); Itau (7.30 percent); Nacional (4.16 percent); Real (2.53 percent); and Emesa (1.05 percent). The investment association established by CSN employees has 14 days—until 20 April—to finalize the purchase of 20 percent of the company's stock.

### Finance Minister Planning To Ask IMF for Waiver

*PY0904165893 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Apr 93 p 16*

[From the "Economic Panorama" column by Miriam Leitao—the word "waiver" is published in English throughout]

[Text] During his visit to Washington at the end of the month, Finance Minister Eliseu Resende will ask the IMF for a waiver for Brazil. A request for waiver, which is commonly done when a country fails to comply with the goals established in a letter of intent, is an attempt to maintain in force the stand by [preceding two words in English] agreement signed between Brazil and the IMF last year. If the IMF grants the waiver, it will temporarily give up its right to punish Brazil for failing to comply with the goals established in the letter of intent. In this case, the punishment would be to annul the agreement.

The agreement with the IMF is a prerequisite for finalizing a debt rescheduling agreement with the committee of creditor banks, which according to Resende "will take

our mind off this problem." Resende points out that once the debt rescheduling agreement is signed, lower interest rates will ease the debt service burden and the country's debt will become a sort of "dead debt." In order to achieve this, however, Brazil must reach an agreement with the IMF.

If our country had met the targets set by the IMF concerning fiscal surplus, it would have been able to request the disbursement of a loan to buy the collateral (U.S. Treasury bonds) it has to give to creditor banks. Yet Resende does not seem to be worried about the lack of those resources. He said: "We are now in a position to buy $3.2 billion in collateral without having to borrow from international organizations." The finance minister does not rule out the possibility that another letter of intent might be necessary, but he himself concedes that it is most difficult for the government to commit itself to meeting ambitious fiscal targets.

### Decree Signed Regulating Informatics Sector Tax Exemptions

*PY1004125193 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Apr 93 Section 2 p 1*

[Text] After a five month delay, President Itamar Franco signed a decree regulating the granting of tax exemptions in the informatics sector. There is a great deal of red tape involved in taking advantage of this kind of tax exemption. The companies will have to send projects to the Science and Technology Ministry, with details of the manufacturing stages, in order to prove that they are not merely assembling the products.

A decree regulating this issue should have been signed as soon as the informatics area market reservation policy was suspended on 29 October.

According to the decree, published yesterday, informatics companies will have to formally request tax exemption from the Science and Technology Ministry, and wait for the answer to the request to be published in the DIARIO OFICIAL [OFFICIAL DAILY] of the Union.

#### Red Tape

There is a great deal of red tape involved in obtaining tax exemptions, as Conin [National Council for Informatics and Automation] must decide on the list of assets to will be favored with tax reductions or exemptions.

So far Conin does not legally exist, as the draft bill on its reorganization is still being debated in Congress. To be classified as an informatics area company, more than 50 percent of the company's profits must be obtained through informatics area assets and services.

To obtain an IPI [Tax on Manufactured Products] exemption, the project with its manufacturing stages must be approved by the Science and Technology Ministry, as is being done in the Manaus tax-free zone.

#### Tax Exemption

The IPI exemption will be in force until 29 October 1999. The 50 percent reduction in income tax, however, which will be in force until 31 December 1997, holds the condition that 5 percent of the companies' gross profits be invested in research activities and that the informatics and automation fields be developed.

If the company cannot invest 5 percent of its gross profits in the same fiscal year, it will have to invest the remaining amount, already monetarily corrected, in the following fiscal year. It will otherwise lose the right to the tax exemption.

## Chile

### Pinochet Visits President Before Official Visit to PRC

*PY0904030993 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Apr 93*

[Excerpts] One week before beginning his tour of the PRC, General Augusto Pinochet, the Army commander in chief, met with President Patricio Aylwin. There was no official report on what occurred during the meeting, which lasted only 12 minutes.

Gen. Pinochet arrived at La Moneda Palace 10 minutes before the scheduled hour in the company of his security guard. When he was leaving Government House he was asked whether he had reported to the president on his upcoming visit to the PRC and whether he could report details of the trip. [passage omitted]

He answered: What do you want me to tell you about it if it hasn't started yet?

It was reported that Gen. Pinochet went to La Moneda to say goodbye to the president in compliance with the last part of the required protocol before leaving on his visit to the PRC on 15 April.

On 6 April, the defense minister signed a decree authorizing the Army commander in chief to leave the country on an official mission.

## Colombia

### Foreign Minister Comments on Relations With Ecuador

*PA1204034293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 12 Apr 93*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin by Francisco Javier Diaz; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Diaz] In addition to smuggling, there are other problems along the border with Ecuador. The problems are at Rumichaca Bridge.

[Sanin] Smuggling is becoming less significant since the implementation of the free trade agreement. Virtually all

products can move freely between Colombia and Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela, and Colombia and Bolivia. So I do not see any problem.

[Diaz] Well, drug trafficking activities on the border...

[Sanin, interrupting] There are very important cooperation agreements being implemented jointly with border countries to prevent criminals from getting organized and using borders to evade justice. We have important cooperation agreements with neighboring countries so that crime is punished in either country.

### Residents Complain About Drug Trafficking Radar at Border

*PA1004043093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 10 Apr 93*

[Excerpts] One area of Colombia that obviously has been abandoned is along the border with Brazil. At the border, towns survive without communications or public services and endure poor health conditions. [passage omitted]

This week an Indian from Caqueta reported that a marker was moved to expand the Brazilian border. In the border area, however, relations between Colombia and Brazil are very good. Brazil has a large military presence there. According to the Unified Command of Southern Colombia, there is a Colombian post for each Brazilian post.

The Colombians of this region coexist with the Brazilians without any problems. Something that has become a source of irritation lately is a radar installed by North Americans in the very heart of Leticia, in line with agreements reached with Colombia to fight drug trafficking. The people of Leticia find explanations about the presence of U.S. soldiers and DEA agents in their town implausible.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified resident] Sometimes they arrive armed, sometimes unarmed, and they are immediately escorted by Colombian military personnel.

[Colombian area commander General German Castro] Yes. They are in my jurisdiction and one of my functions is to maintain close coordination with them and to maintain control of the situation. [end recording]

This is the situation at our border. This city, which has a relationship with three countries—Brazil, Peru, and now the United States—remains one of the most important points along the world's lungs, the Amazon.

### Foreign Minister Comments

*PA1004132693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 10 Apr 92*

[Text] The Colombian Government is investigating charges about irregularities on the border with Brazil. Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin announced that she and the defense minister will visit the area. She stated that Colombia defends its territorial integrity.

[Begin recording] [Sanin] We are interested not only in kilometers, but in every centimeter or inch of our territory because this is Colombia and we must defend it. It is part of our duty.

[Reporter Francisco Javier Diaz] Let us talk about Brazil, about our border with Brazil. There are many charges of border markers being moved. The governor of Amazonas says that there is total neglect, that landmarks are not being maintained.

[Sanin] During June and July, the defense minister, the foreign minister, and the Sovereignty Office will inspect these markers. In the meantime we have been making control visits to the area and I can say that we found only one marker that was broken on the border with Brazil.

[Diaz] Mrs. Minister, the military commander of Tavatinga has said that the unconfirmed border that runs from Leticia to Tarapaca is not marked properly.

[Sanin] We would like that commander to speak with the Sovereignty Office. We can establish Colombia's border with Brazil perfectly well with the use of geodesic lines.

[Diaz] What agreement explains the radar that the North Americans have in Leticia? Is this a military matter or is there some agreement permitting this?

[Sanin] There are international agreements and treaties that permit international cooperation for control, observation, and technical photography purposes to fight crime. [end recording]

### ELN Said Responsible for Kidnapping Newspaper Owner

*PA1104202193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Apr 93*

[Text] The Army of National Liberation is reportedly responsible for the kidnapping of Jaime Ardila, founder and owner of EL ESPACIO. Guzman Quintero has the report:

[Begin recording] [Quintero] The whereabouts of industrialist Jaime Ardila, kidnapped in Cesar Department by four armed men, has become a mystery for authorities.

Ardila, who was in Valledupar for Holy Week, was abducted by a group of men who identified themselves as members of the Administrative Department of Security, who forced him to leave a restaurant located in the northern part of the city. Thus far, Ardila's whereabouts are unknown to authorities.

Incidentally, the police said Ardila was always accompanied by a bodyguard when visiting Valledupar.

[Cesar Police Commander Marco Tuilio Riano] He claimed that he needed protection—especially when traveling to rural areas to visit one of his farms.

[Quintero] Authorities are now sketching composite drawings and offering a large reward for information leading to the arrest of the band of kidnappers and to Ardila's release. [end recording]

### Police Foil Terrorist Attack on Airport in Arauca

*PA1104145793 Santa Fe De Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 93*

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—Authorities have foiled an attempted dynamite attack by the ELN [Army of National Liberation] against the Puerto Rondon Airport in Arauca. The police killed one terrorist and seized explosives.

As the insurgent prepared to dynamite the airport runway, he was caught by a police patrol. He tried to escape but was shot. The police seized one high-power SC3 bomb, matches, and primers from the terrorist.

### Army Captures Medellin Cartel Bodyguard

*PA1204032593 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 12 Apr 93*

Luis Eduardo Pabon, chief of the Medellin Cartel's hired killers, was captured on 11 April west of Medellin, the capital of Antioquia Department, by 4th Army Brigade troops.

The arrested man had worked as a bodyguard for Hernan Henao, alias HH, who was killed on 1 March by units searching for Pablo Escobar Gaviria.

### Medellin Cartel Member Killed in Prison

*PA1004033793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 10 Apr 93*

[Text] A Medellin Cartel member, Gustavo Gonzalez Flores, alias Tavo, was killed on 9 April inside Bellavista Prison, in Bello, Antioquia.

The assassin, whose name has not been revealed yet, took advantage of Holy Week celebrations kill Gonzalez Flores in the prison's maximum security ward. The assassin then fled to another hall where he was seized by guards. He is being interrogated by police authorities.

Tavo was taken alive to Bello's Marco Fidel Suarez Hospital. He surrendered on 21 July 1991. He was in Envigado Prison with Pablo Escobar until 22 July 1992 when they escaped with another eight men.

Gonzalez was serving a sentence for kidnapping, extortion, illegal possession of weapons, and escape from prison. He had surrendered for a second time on 14 October 1992. He was sharing a cell in Bellavista Prison with Fernando Leon Londono, who surrendered only two days ago.

Gustavo Gonzalez Flores had been transferred to Bellavista Prison at his own request after receiving death threats.

## Ecuador

### Government To Grant Asylum to Venezuelan Officers

*PA0904025193 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Apr 93*

[Text] The Ecuadoran Government reported on 8 April that for humanitarian reasons it would grant diplomatic asylum to two Venezuelan military officers who participated in the November foiled coup in that nation. A brief official report said Venezuelan Army noncommissioned officers Cesar Ricardo Bastardo and Leonardo Bastida would benefit from the asylum. The report indicates that Ecuador maintains close relations with Venezuela, which is a nation that is usually respectful of exile regulations. Ecuador's decision to grant protection to the two Venezuelan noncommissioned officers in no way implies any judgment regarding Venezuela's internal matters, the same source noted. The Quito government on 3 March granted similar protection to Colonel Alfredo Castro and Captain Oscar Jesus Navas, who were arrested on 22 February in Colombia when they attempted to cross into Ecuador with false documents.

## Paraguay

### Colorado President Says Party To Respect Election Results

*PY1004145993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Apr 93 pp 2-3*

[Excerpt] Blas N. Riquelme, president of the National Republican Association [ANR—Colorado Party], has stressed that the Colorado Party will be the first to respect the results of the 9 May elections, even if the party is defeated. He said that "at least" the party leadership would accept the results. These remarks by the ANR president are a radical turnaround with respect to the remarks he made in Tobati, where he indicated that the party would resort to fraud to maintain in power the current political structure. Despite Riquelme's conciliatory remarks, however, charges have arisen of alleged persecution being suffered by Colorado members who do not share the ideas of the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket.

Riquelme said he had been participating in party politics since the 2-3 February [1989] coup because of his "idealism, and not to make deals," stressing that he would be the first to respect the results of the 9 May elections.

"At least where the party and I are concerned, we are going to respect the election results. There is no doubt about that. You will remember this. Only a few days remain now, and if the results go against the party we will be the first to respect them and comply with our responsibility to move this country into democracy," Riquelme said.

He added that the Colorado Party was the main participant in Paraguay's political transition, and that it was therefore impossible that the party could think of changing the course of the history currently being peacefully written.

Riquelme also guaranteed that elections would be held throughout the country on 9 May. He stated that there would be no kinds of disturbances that could effect the elections. [passage omitted]

## Peru

### President Urges Businesses To Invest, Bankers To Cut Interest Rates

*PA1104044193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Apr 93*

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori called on the Peruvian business sector to invest in Peru and not fall behind their foreign counterparts who have already invested $50 million in the country. Likewise, he called on all bankers to cut interest rates.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] Ayacuho Bishop Monsignor Juan Luis Ciprione has been quite straightforward on this issue. I am going to add a little more pepper because it is unfortunate that foreign businessmen should be leading the way regarding investments in Peru. We have seen businessmen from Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, the United States, and China investing amounts surpassing $50 million on projects. I believe that Peruvian investors still have time and will not be left behind. Bankers must also contribute their share to supporting Peru's development. They must double their efforts to cut interest rates. They must implement internal structural reforms in their banks. The government has already done its part when it eliminated a 1 percent surtax charged to checking accounts. At first we decreased the surtax to 0.75 percent and then we eliminated it completely. Therefore, I believe bankers are in a position to do their share.

[Unidentified reporter] How much should bankers cut interest rates?

[Fujimori] The ideal interest rate should be the one in use internationally. In Peru we are working according to international parameters. Regarding banks, we hope that with the arrival of foreign banks there will be more competition since they have expressed interest in purchasing Interbank, and Banco Continental. [end recording]

### President Announces Special Credits for Terrorism Victims

*PA0904125993 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Apr 93*

[Text] The government will grant the Tarata Street victims a special interest-free credit for up to 1 million soles and will pardon debts owed by victims of terrorism to development banks. President Alberto Fujimori made that announcement when he presented 300 houses of the (Caravahillo) program to relatives of Armed Forces and Police Corps members who were killed in action.

No other sentiment is as important as gratitude. Thus the entire country wants to express its recognition of the heroes who offered their lives to defend our right to live. They were murdered in a despicable and cowardly manner. Those were the first statements President Fujimori made at the (Caravahillo) housing program's main plaza. During the event 300 houses were given to relatives of deceased soldiers and policemen. The president presented ownership documents and house keys to the widows of two policemen.

Speaking at the event, President Fujimori announced that he will promulgate a special supreme decree to pardon debts and embargoes at development banks that fallen servicemen's relatives have had to confront. He added that a special long term, interest-free credit for up to 1 million soles with a five-year grace period will be given to Tarata Street victims in Miraflores.

### Police Arrest 'Top' MRTA Leader

*PA0904194093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1745 GMT 9 Apr 93*

[Text] Lima, 9 Apr (EFE)—Benjamin Rengifo, top leader of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) terrorist group, has been captured by Peruvian police in Rioja, San Martin Department, it was reported in Lima on 9 April.

Rengifo, alias Commander Damian, who is top MRTA leader Nestor Serpa Cartolini's leading lieutenant, escaped from the Moyobamba prison in June 1992, according to a police source.

Rengifo was captured on 7 April during a door to door night raid conducted by Peruvian security forces in Rioja.

Damian's arrest is another strong blow to the MRTA, which in the last year has seen the arrest of almost all its leaders, including top leader and founder Victor Polay Campos, who was sentenced to life in prison last week.

The Peruvian Government last year approved life imprisonment as the penalty for subversives and leaders of terrorist groups who are found guilty of murder.

Two members of the Maoist Shining Path group were sentenced to life in prison but have sought to benefit from the Repentance Law, which pardons or reduces sentences of those who cooperate with the authorities in the fight against terrorism, it was reported in Lima on 9 April.

Brothers Raymundo and Rafael Bonilla Huamani, both of whom were in prison in the Andean city of Arequipa, provided information that led to the capture of 27

Shining Path members. That is why they will get a reduced sentence, a police source reported.

Moreover, five foreigners who have been in Lima since 6 April to support Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman, who is serving a life sentence in prison, submitted to the Peruvian judicial authorities a document requesting a new trial for the terrorist leader.

The document, which was released by the media and greeted with surprise and outrage, states that "no real observer can deny that Dr. Abimael Guzman is the recognized leader of millions of peasants" and "in no way can the 12 years of war he waged be described as terrorist actions."

The members of the so-called "International Emergency Committee To Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman" are Americans Yuri Kochiyama and Phil Farham, Mexican Pilar Noriega, Spaniard Francesc Arnau, and Briton Michael Harrison. They also described the Peruvian Government as a "fascist and police government."

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said on 8 April that Guzman's foreign defenders "may come when they wish" but said his government "will not release Abimael."

Since Shining Path, considered by the United Nations to be the most cruel and merciless terrorist group in the world, unleashed political violence in Peru in 1980, nearly 29,000 people have been killed and the Peruvian economy has sustained losses of more than $22 billion, a figure that compares to the country's total foreign debt.

### Presence of Guzman Defense Group Said Causing 'Indignation'

*PA1104140993 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Apr 93*

[Text] The presence in Peru of the self-styled International Committee for the Defense of Abimael Guzman's Life has caused animosity and indignation among the community. This delegation, comprised of four foreigners, on 9 April left the downtown Lima hotel where they were staying. The delegation wanted to meet with government authorities, even with President Alberto Fujimori, after they had published a statement requesting a new trial for the Shining Path's number one leader, who is serving a life sentence.

Personalities, well-known for their human rights work in Peru and in the world, do not recognize this group as having authority or representation of any kind. These groups take advantage of Peru's distorted image abroad to ask for financial support and to recruit others to their cause. Here are statements by several Peruvian personalities:

[Begin recording] [Francisco Diaz Canseco, president of the Council for Peace] This sales pitch and image was previously promoted in other Latin American nations and we have to unmask this movement [Shining Path]. This is a terrorist group that has murdered thousands of Peruvians, created insecure situations, halted Peru's development, and in addition, is notoriously violent. These characteristics have no equal, except perhaps in Pol Pot's Cambodia.

[Congressman Henry Peasi] He is paying for being the world's most feared assassine and for substantially damaging Peru. Observations can be made regarding the trial. All of his rights were respected during the arrest, however. He is housed in a special prison. There is nothing for this group to defend.

[Human rights advocate Enrqiue Bernales] I am a little tired of this because I have been saying for years that false information, particularly in Europe, was spread regarding the Shining Path. Past administrations are partially responsible. What is happening in Peru is a peasant revolution; there are many people who have been deceived in this respect. I would not be surprised if the members of the so-called International Committee for the Defense of Abimael Guzman's Life, are not included in those who have been deceived. [end recording]

## Uruguay

### Vice President Ends PRC Visit, Leaves for Hong Kong

*PY1004154593 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 10 Apr 93*

[Text] Uruguayan Vice President Gonzalo Aguirre Ramirez yesterday concluded a six-day state visit to the PRC. During his visit, Aguirre met with government officials in Beijing and visited the thriving coastal cities of Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen.

While in Beijing Aguirre met President Jian Zemin, with whom he discussed several issues pertaining to bilateral relations and international affairs. Aguirre also held meetings with his Chinese counterpart, Rong Yiren, and with Qiao Shi, chairman of the National People's Congress.

The most salient aspects of Aguirre's visit to the PRC are the signing of a cooperation agreement between the two countries' parliaments, several agreements on technological and scientific cooperation, a memorandum of understanding on trade, and a note of exchange on loans.

During his stay in southern China Aguirre stated that the Province of Guangzhou has acted as a spearhead for the PRC's opening drive, and is extremely important for the building of a truly visionary socialism.

After visiting Shenzhen, a special economic zone near Guangzhou in southeast China, Aguirre—who was accompanied by a retinue including Defense Minister Mariano Brito and Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu—left for the British colony of Hong Kong, which will be handed over to the PRC in 1997.

### Soldiers, Military Vehicles To Depart for Mozambique

*PY0804133993 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 Apr 93*

[Text] Military spokesmen have reported that more than 100 military transportation vehicles and 47 containers of equipment and food for (?90) days will be loaded today and tomorrow in the port of Montevideo to be sent to Mozambique (?in the ship) at the service of the United Nations that will arrive this afternoon in our port.

An initial group of 24 soldiers will depart for Mozambique on the morning of 10 April. This is how the Uruguayan Army will participate in the UN peace mission in Mozambique, in which a total 320 Uruguayan soldiers will participate.

More than 100 vehicles will be loaded onto the UN ship, including 44 trucks, 25 Condor armored vehicles, 23 Jeeps, a trailer that will serve as a dental unit, several pick-up trucks, mobile cranes, and two tankers to transport fuel. These vehicles can be seen in the streets of Montevideo today as they travel to the port.

## Venezuela

### Foreign Ministry Issues Note on Relations With Peru

*PA0804151493 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 8 Apr 93*

[Text] The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry issued a note on 7 April explaining that diplomatic relations with Peru remain suspended. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Eloy Fernandez said the explanation was prompted by the various ways in which Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich's statements were interpreted. Foreign Minister Ochoa Antich made statements on 6 April at the Rio Group foreign ministers meeting in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The communique explains that Bolivia, Colombia, and Ecuador made friendly overtures so Venezuela would adopt a more flexible attitude toward Peru, but that country has yet to participate in negotiations to achieve that goal. Relations, therefore, remain suspended.